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STATE LIBRARY BOARD ELECTRONIC MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 5, 2020
10:00 A.M. to 11:30 P.M.

State Library Board Attendees:

Marguerite Mower, Chair; Grace Acosta, Vice-Chair; Diane Carter; Lisa Ord; Linda Fields; Jon Ostler; Dianne M. Aldrich, Jason Cornelius

Utah State Library (USL) Staff:

Colleen Egge, Division Director/State Librarian; Lisa Nelson, Blind and Disabled Program Manager; Chaundra Johnson, Library Development Program Manager; Marie Erickson, Library Resources Program Manager; Rachel Cook, Grants Coordinator; Merrily Cannon, Training Coordinator; Heidi Fendrick, State Data Coordinator; Sharon Deeds, Youth Services Coordinator; Amanda Rock, Administrative Secretary

Department of Heritage & Arts (DHA) Staff:

Jill Love, Executive Director; Katherine Porter, Deputy Director

This meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Ms. Mower.

Introductions:

Board members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

Minutes of December 6, 2019 meeting:

Ms. Acosta moved to accept the minutes as drafted with Ms. Ord seconding the motion. All board members voted in the affirmative. The motion passed unanimously.

Director's update:

Ms. Egge reported that Emporia will not be utilizing Utah State Library's (USL) building to host classes due to logistical issues.

Ms. Egge shared USL's response to the Covid-19 crisis. She stated that USL is fully functional online, with most staff teleworking. The Library for the Blind staff is working from the building, but are not currently open to the public.

As for Utah's libraries, there is information on navigating the pandemic available on USL's website. This includes information from the Governor's office. There is also a comprehensive list of libraries that are open, moving towards opening, and closed. Development has been hosting monthly meetings for the library directors to share information.

The pandemic will change the way USL does business, she explained. There has been a hiring freeze, travel is cancelled, and in-person events are cancelled. Ms. Egge stressed that USL will maintain literacy

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throughout Utah, and support for Utah libraries. She added that through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, USL granted \$290,000 to Utah libraries.

LSTA FY19 grant round results; CARES Act funding:

Ms. Cook shared results of the LSTA FY19 grant round. Some projects included libraries installing self-checkout and others adding virtual reality. She also explained the three phases of the CARES Act grants: Phase 1 is providing broadband to libraries with LTE antennas and other network solutions; Phase 2 is focussed on digital inclusion; and Phase 3's plan is fluid.

Dashboard report:

Ms. Cannon shared the statistics available on USL's dashboard. <https://library.utah.gov/dashboard/>

DHA update:

Ms. Love introduced Ms. Potter as the new Deputy Director. She then thanked USL staff for helping play a role in DHA's COVID-19 relief plans for the community. She also gave an update on the Rio Grande building, which was seriously damaged in the recent earthquake. She stated it could be months before the building is safe to inhabit. Regarding the new museum for artifacts, she reported that plans will move forward.

Ms. Potter then shared her background with non-profits, arts and education. March 10, 2020 was her first day at DHA, and her very first meeting was at USL, discussing the bookmobile program. She echoed Ms. Love's gratitude for DHA's employees and shared information about DHA's non-profit relief fund, drawing attention to different ways the department is raising money to help those affected by the pandemic.

Bookmobile program update:

Ms. Potter explained that the legislature asked for a report on the bookmobile program. In February, a consultant was hired to collect financial and anecdotal information about the program. This report will be presented to the legislature at the end of August.

Ms. Love added that the legislature asked for recommendations for meeting rural Utah's demand and need for the bookmobile program, asking "Is the service provided where the greatest need is?"

Staff reports:

Library Development:

Ms. Johnson reported on the Library Development program, including two staff changes: Merrily Cannon, who was the State Data Coordinator now works as the Training Coordinator. Heidi Fendrick, who worked in Library Resources, is now the State Data Coordinator.

She stated that in addition to the competitive grant round that Ms. Cook had discussed, nine other grants totalling \$233,889 were awarded since December.

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The response to COVID-19 was swift. Ms. Johnson explained how staff supported libraries with closing procedures, handling materials, professional development for staff, answering questions about statistics, and consulting individual libraries as needed. They plan to continue to support libraries as they are now opening.

Liz Gabbitas, Sharon Deeds, and Darci Card (Resources) worked with libraries throughout the state to develop a virtual story me. Ms. Deeds has coordinated two virtual directors' meetings and well as meetings for Youth Services staff to share concerns, ideas, innovations, and movements.

Library Resources:

Ms. Erickson shared updates for Library Resources, including hiring Hannah Jones as the new acquisitions tech to replace Heidi Fendrick.

She said that in the last year Ms. Fendrick had worked hard to increase titles and readership in the Bookbuzz program by partnering with outside organizations like State History. She added that Overdrive has shifted from being led by USL to libraries' contributing different amounts and sharing titles with the larger consortium.

Ms. Erickson stated that due to Covid-19, most staff were working from home.

Blind and Disabled Program

Ms. Nelson shared that the training and activities that were planned will need to be rescheduled for fall due to Covid-19. In July, they will be one of only four libraries to pilot a braille reading device.

The braille program continues to thrive. All states signed their new contracts. Hawaii has inquired about starting service.

She stated that the Multistate Center West has been doing a fabulous job dealing with the Covid-19 crisis. Multistate Center East closed in March and they have been working hard to fill their requests. She said she was grateful to have Joe Ballard on the team, he has stepped up and is going above and beyond.

She said her staff has done really well and shown resilience with the pandemic and earthquake, and the many aftershocks.

Other items:

Ms. Egge announced that Sara Weibke was our new board member, representing the State Board of Education. We now have a full board of nine members.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Upcoming State Library Board Meeting dates:

June 12, 2020

September 25, 2020

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December 4, 2020